(b) Yes, Sir. There was a deviation from project proposal in regard to fee charged and the frequency of the training.

(c) Yes, Sir. Necessary approval of the Council was obtained for the above deviation.

Famine in Rajasthan

†2499. DR. ABRAR AHMAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds demanded by Rajasthan Government from the Central Government during the last three years, to overcome the famine, the amount of assistance sanctioned and paid to the State;

(b) whether it is a fact that Rajasthan is likely to face severe famine due to absence of rain and whether the State Government has given any memorandum in this regard; and

(c) if so, the plans being formulated by Government to combat the famine this year in Rajasthan, and in other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) In addition to release of entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1999-2000 to 2001-2002, details of additional assistance provided to the State in the wake of drought is indicated below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Assistance demanded	Assistance released
1999-2000	1144.40	102.93
2000-01	2367.80	163.97

No memorandum for assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in the wake of 2001-02 drought was received from the State Government.

Expenses for PIL by ICAR

2500. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Indian Council of Agriculture Research was respondent in any Public Interest Litigation filed in the High Court of Delhi;, during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the case number;

(c) whether the Council paid expenses of any Public Interest Litigation, filed in High Court of Delhi, though it was not a respondent/petitioner or became party at any stage of the case during the last two years; and

(d) the details of the action taken/proposed to take against the officials who violated rules in above payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) No expenses were paid by ICAR for any Public Interest Litigation, however, legal fees of Rs. 3850/- was paid to Shri B.S. More, Advocate in Criminal writ Petition No. 125/2001 which was filed as Public Interest Litigation in Delhi High Court against the Union of India through its Secretary, Ministrey of Home Affairs, North Block, New Delhi and Central Bureau of Investiation through its Director, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.

(d) Since above payment was made with the approval of Competent Authority there was no violation of any rule hence, no action was taken/ proposed to be taken against any official.

Accurate crop forecasting

2501. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item apearing in the Indian Express dated the 8th July, 2002, to the effect that Rs.76 crore plan for accurate crop forecast awaits nod; if so,what are the details thereof;

(b) by when this project would get approval;

(c) what are the various uses of this project;

(d) whether it is a fact that this would help remove human error and facilitate multiple in-season crop assessment in real time; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?